

Claims

1. Method for granting access to a computer-based object, wherein

- 5 - a memory card comprising a program code processor is provided, at least one public and private key that is allocated to the memory card as well as a public key of a trustworthy entity being stored on said memory card,
- a piece of license information comprising at least one 10 license code which is encoded by means of the public key allocated to the memory card is provided on an arithmetic unit that controls access to the computer-based object,
- the encoded license code and a declaration, digitally signed by means of the private key of the trustworthy 15 entity, of a function for decoding the license code to be executed by the memory card, are transmitted to the memory card,
- the digital signature of the declaration of the function to be executed by the memory card is checked,
- 20 - if the result of the check is positive, the function for decoding the license code is executed by the memory card and a decoded license code is transmitted to the arithmetic unit,
- the decoded license code is provided at least temporarily 25 for accessing the computer-based object.

2. Method according to claim 1,

wherein the public key of the trustworthy entity is provided, protected against manipulation, on the arithmetic unit, wherein 30 the license information is digitally signed by means of a private key of the trustworthy entity and wherein the digital signature of the license information is checked in the

arithmetic unit with the aid of the public key of the trustworthy entity.

3. Method according to any one of claims 1 or 2,
5 wherein the license information additionally comprises the public key allocated to the memory card, wherein the decoded license code is digitally signed by means of the private key allocated to the memory card and wherein the digital signature of the decoded license code is checked in the arithmetic unit
10 with the aid of the public key allocated to the memory card.

4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3,
wherein the declaration, digitally signed by means of the private key of the trustworthy entity, of the function for
15 decoding the license code to be executed by the memory card is generated in the arithmetic unit from the encoded license code and a signature object which comprises only a signature portion of a function call, signed by the trustworthy entity, for decoding the license code.

20 5. Method according to claim 4,
wherein the piece of license information additionally comprises the signature object.

25 6. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 5,
wherein the encoded license code and the declaration, digitally signed by means of the private key of the trustworthy entity, of the function to be executed by the memory card is transmitted over a secure communication link from the
30 arithmetic unit via a reading device to the memory card.

7. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 6,

wherein the digital signature of the declaration of the function to be executed by the memory card is checked with the aid of the public key of the trustworthy entity.

- 5 8. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 7,
wherein a random number is generated in the arithmetic unit and
this random number is transmitted to the memory card, wherein
the decoded license code is digitally signed by means of the
private key allocated to the memory card and by means of the
10 random number, and wherein the digital signature of the decoded
license code is checked in the arithmetic unit with the aid of
the public key allocated to the memory card and with the aid of
the random number.
- 15 9. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 8,
wherein, in order to grant access to the computer-based object,
the decoded license code and progress of a checking process are
matched with a respective set default.
- 20 10. Control program which can be loaded into a working memory
of an arithmetic unit and has at least one code section, upon
execution of which
- a transmission of a license code encoded by means of a
public key allocated to a memory card comprising a program
25 code processor and of a declaration, digitally signed by
means of a private key of a trustworthy entity, of a
function for decoding the license code to be executed by
the memory card, to the memory card is prompted,
 - a checking of the digital signature of the declaration of
30 the function to be executed by the memory card is prompted
by the memory card,
 - if the result of the check is positive, an execution of
the function for decoding the license code by the memory

card and a transmission of a decoded license code to the arithmetic unit are prompted,

the decoded license code is provided at least temporarily for access to the computer-based object by the arithmetic
5 unit,

if the control program is running in the arithmetic unit.